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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:
EDWARD S. ELLIS, ET AL.

SERIAL No.: 09/553,107

DATE FILED: APRIL 20, 2000

TITLE: PRODUCTION OF LOW SULFUR
DISTILLATES

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EXAMINER: J. JOHNSON

GROUP ART UNIT: 1764

ATTY. DOCKET No.: GJH-0018

HONORABLE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This is in Response to the First Office Action after RCE (Paper No. 12) dated November 7, 2002. Please enter the following remarks.

REMARKS

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)/103(a)

Claims 1-7, 9-16 and 18-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over United States Patent Number 5,292,428, Harrison et al. ("Harrison")

EXAMINER'S POSITION

It is the Examiner's position that Harrison teaches a process wherein hydrocarbon feedstock is passed through two or more hydrodesulfurization zones and connected in a series each zone containing a packed bed of solid catalyst wherein the liquid is passed from a first zone to the next until the final zone. The Examiner further mentions: make-up